

Message Text

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ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

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SUBJECT: DECEMBER 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. JAPAN

US-JAPAN TRADE/USHIBA VISIT CONTINUE AS MAJOR NEWS
TOPICS. SUN QUOTES AMEMB TOKYO ECON OFFICER BUTTON
THAT AT MTG W/MANSFIELD, USHIBA SAID HE EXPECTED DIFFICULT
TIME IN WASHINGTON/ADMITTED JAPAN'S SURPLUS-REDUCTION
MEASURES WOULD NOT BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL.
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CHAPMAN (WP TOKYO) REPORTS US OFFICIAL SAID 12/8 NEW
PKG DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO SATISFY US, W/"WIDE GAP
REMAINING" BE BRIDGED. DEPARTING FROM EARLIER OPTIMISM,
USHIBA TOLD FON REPORTERS, "I MAY HAVE A LITTLE BIT
OVERSTATED THE CASE," ADDING: WASHINGTON TRIP WOULD
NOT "SOLVE EVERYTHING. THAT'S FOR SURE."

NYT'S MALCOLM (TOKYO) STATES USHIBA HAS DECLARED JAPAN
HAS NO INTENTION MAKING PUBLIC PLEDGE TO TURN TRADE
SURPLUS INTO DEFICIT. SAYS USHIBA INDICATED HE WILL

STRESS TO US OFFICIALS THAT AMERICAN DEMANDS ARE BEYOND
GOJ'S POWER TO DELIVER. ECON MINISTER SAID FUKUDA TOLD

HIM DO HIS BEST, EVEN IF PKG "NOT AS LARGE" AS HE HOPED
FOR. MALCOLM CITES OPINIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES' DIPLO-
MATS, WHO FEEL JAPANESE BELIEVE US BLUFFING ABOUT
PROTECTIONIST THREAT/CONGRESSIONAL REACTION AGAINST
JAPANESE EXPORTS.

AFTER RETURNING FROM JAPAN/SK/ROC, NY SEN JAVITS TOLD
12/8 PRESS CONF HE BELIEVED JAPAN WOULD ACT TO AVOID
CONFRONTATION W/US OVER TRADE IMBALANCE. SEN STATED
HE MADE IT CLEAR IN TALKS W/FUKUDA THAT THERE WAS
STRONG PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS; THAT IF
JAPANESE WISHED AVOID CONFRONTATION W/US ON TRADE, THEY
HAD TO ACT IN TIME (REUTER 12/8).

IN KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN CALIF 12/8,
GEORGE MEANY CALLED ON CARTER ADMIN ABANDON FREE TRADE
AS "JOKE AND A MYTH"/URGED STRICT IMPORTS CONTROL
POLICY THAT WOULD "DO UNTO OTHERS AS THEY DO UNTO US,
BARRIER FOR BARRIER." MEANY DEFINED FON TRADE AS
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"GUERRILLA WARFARE OF ECONOMICS" IN WHICH US ECONOMY
BEING "AMBUSHED" (DEWAR, WP).

US INTL TRADE COMMISSION HAS ADVISED PRES CARTER SHARPLY
RAISE DUTIES ON IMPORTS NUTS/BOLTS/SCREWS. ITC SAID
FON MAKERS, MAINLY IN JAPAN/ROC, WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTING
US INDUSTRY BY THEIR IMPORTS. ITC WILL ALSO HOLD MTG
1/31 ON ALLEGATIONS BY SEVERAL US FIRMS THAT THEY ARE
BEING INJURED BY IMPORTS WELDED STAINLESS PIPE/TUBING
(REUTER 12/8).

WORLD IMPORT MART--700-MIL-DOL TRADE CENTER FEATURING
EXHIBITIONS OF FON GOODS/TRAVEL INFO FOR BOOSTING
IMPORTS--WILL OPEN IN TOKYO NEXT OCT. PROJECT'S OFFICIALS
SAID GROUP JAPANESE TRADING FIRMS/1 DEPT STORE HAVE SET
UP FIRM FOR IMPORT CENTER AT GOJ REQUEST, FOLLOWING FON
CRITICISM OVER JAPAN'S TRADE PROFITS (UPI, JOC).

2. CHINA

PRITCHETT (REUTER PEKING) CITES "PD" ARTICLE ON MASS
RALLY IN HONAN PROVINCE WHERE TWO TEACHERS (JAILED AFTER
ACCUSATION THEY DROVE TO SUICIDE STUDENT WHO WOULD NOT
FINISH EXAM) WERE REHABILITATED. STUDENT TURNED IN PAPER
WHICH SAID, "WHY LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGE? NOT NECESSARY
TO KNOW ABC TO BE REVOLUTIONARY." TEACHERS ASKED STUDENT
FOR SELF CRITICISM; BODY LATER FOUND IN RESEVOIR.
CHIANG CHING SAID TO HAVE SENT INVESTIGATORS WHO CHARGED

TEACHERS W/REVISIONISM/OTHER CRIMES. "PD" ARTICLE SAYS INDICENT, PLAYED UP BY GANG OF FOUR, UNDERMINED AUTHORITY OF TEACHERS, IMPAIRED EDUCATION THROUGHOUT CHINA. AS ASIDE, ARTICLE ADDS THAT STUDENTS NOW TAKING COUNTRY'S FIRST EXAMS IN MANY YEARS, SINCE ABOLITION BY GANG OF FOUR.

REUTER CARRIES STATEMENT OF SEN JAVITS THAT NORMALIZATION UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF ROC; URGES SELF-DETERMINATION FOR TAIWAN WITH INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF NATIVE TAIWANESE IN GOVT.

3. KOREA

REUTER (SEOUL) REPORTS FM PARK ANNOUNCED TO NATL ASSEMBLY FRI THAT AGREEMENT US/ROK BETWN TONGSUN PARK TESTIMONY IN WASHINGTON EXPECTED NEXT WK. NO FURTHER DETAILS ANNOUNCED. MEANWHILE, NYT REPORTS OTHER FONMIN SOURCES SAY AGREEMENT WILL ALLOW PARK BE QUESTIONED BY PANEL OF US/ KOREAN JUSTICE OFFICIALS IN KOREA (AND NOT IN US EMB) ON ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN INFLUENCE-BUYING SCANDAL; LATER PARK WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, BE GRANTED IMMUNITY IN EXCHANGE FOR TESTIMONY. ROKG WILL NOT ALLOW PARK APPEAR BEFORE CONGRESS. KOREA SEEKS FIRM COMMITMENT FROM US THAT PARK WILL RETURN PROMPTLY, POSSIBLY TO PREVENT CHANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCE. BUT NOTES ANY AGREEMENT PRECLUDING CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO PARK COULD RAISE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS--WHETHER EXECUTIVE CAN MAKE AGREEMENT BINDING ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. CSM CARRIES DENIAL OF US AND SK OFFICIALS THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED, THO THEY HOPE ACCORD WILL BE REACHED SHORTLY.

SUN CARRIES NYT REPORT THAT TONGSUN PARK TOLD SOME AMCITS HE GAVE CASH/OTHER GIFTS WORTH ABOUT 500,000 DOLS TO FORMER REP PASSMAN, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF 190,000 DOLS FROM SWISS BANK. PASSMAN DENIES PAYMENT FROM PARK OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN LOBBYIST.

ROBINSON (WP) NOTES REFUSAL BY US DISTRICT JUDGE TO MAKE PUBLIC REPORT OF GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING KOREAN UNCLASSIFIED

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INFLUENCE-BUYING. GRAND JURORS SAID TO BE CRITICAL OF REP DERWINSKI (R-ILL).

LAT'S JACKSON (12/7) REPORTS CARL ALBERT SAYS HE IS COOPERATING W/INVESTIGATION. ALBERT SAYS WITHDRAWAL OF

PAPERS FOR U OF OKLA COLLECTION TO SEARCH FOR MATERIAL REQUESTED BY ETHICS CMTE, NOT FOR PURPOSE OF CONCEALING INFO.

SEN JAVITS SAYS HE WILL ASK SFRC CLOSELY EXAMINE PLANNED TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA, QUESTIONING TIMING IN LIGHT OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO UNIFY PENINSULA BY FORCE. SAYS US WILL WIN GROK COOPERATION IN SCANDAL INQUIRY IF PROBE HANDLED W/DISCRETION (REUTER).

KOREAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS LED BY FORMER PRES YUN PO SUN ISSUE STATEMENT CALLING FOR RESTORATION ACADEMIC FREEDOM/RELEASE OF ARRESTED ANTI-GOVT STUDENT LEADERS (WSTAR 12/8).

4. MALAYSIA

ALL-DENOMINATION FUNERAL WILL BE HELD SAT FOR 100 PEOPLE KILLED IN MALAYSIAN AIRLINES HIJACK DISASTER LAST SUNDAY. REMAINS OF VICTIMS, NONE OF WHOM COULD BE IDENTIFIED, WILL BE BURIED IN JOHORE BAHRU, SCENE OF CRASH. IDENTITY HIJACKER/CAUSE OF EXPLOSION NOT YET DISCOVERED (REUTER 12/8).

5. THAILAND/VIETNAM

SRV FONMIN WILL VISIT THAILAND SOON TO DISCUSS EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS BETWN 2 COUNTRIES, ACCORDING RTG FON MINISTRY (WSTAR BANGKOK 12/8).

CSM (NONG KHAI 12/8) REPORTS LAOTIAN TRIBESMEN WHO UNCLASSIFIED

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FOUGHT 15 YRS IN SECRET ARMY HIRED BY CIA ARE BATTLING FOR LIVES AGAINST COMMUNIST ARMIES EQUIPPED W/US WEAPONS CAPTURED IN FALL INDOCHINA. IN INTERVIEWS W/UPI, MEO TRIBESMEN WHO ESCAPED ACROSS MEKONG SAID NO HOPE FOR 100,000 TRAPPED IN LAOS/SURROUNDED BY ARMIES WHO ARE "CARRYING OUT A BLOODBATH" IN LAOTIAN HILL COUNTRY. THEY ACCUSED COMMUNISTS OF USING POISON GAS TO EXTERMINATE MEOS/SLAUGHTERING MALE PRISONERS ABOVE AGE 12.

6. INDOCHINA REFUGEES/AUSTRALIA

GOA IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES 340 VIET REFUGEES WILL BE FLOWN TO AUSTRALIA FROM CAMPS IN MALAYSIA LATER THIS MONTH TO TRY STEM FLOW OF VIET BOAT PEOPLE ARRIVING AUSTRALIA. REFUGEES BEING SCREENED BY IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE SENT MALAYSIA BY GOA. AT SAME TIME, MANY OF 1400 REFUGEES ON TENGAH PREPARING SET SAIL AGAIN, HOPING REACH AUSTRALIA BY BOAT. GOA REITERATED POSITION IT WILL NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST GENUINE REFUGEES; BUT FRASER GOVT

BEING ATTACKED BY LABOR OPPOSITION FOR FAILING SPELL OUT FIRM POLICY ON REFUGEES. SOURCES SAY GOA EXPECTED ACCEPT 1,000 REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA IN NEXT FEW MONTHS/ ADDITIONAL 2,000 IT HAS ALREADY SAID IT WILL TAKE FROM CAMPS IN THAILAND (REUTER'S SURESH, SINGAPORE 12/8).

7. AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA REGISTERED BEST OVERSEAS TRADE PERFORMANCE IN MORE THAN YR IN NOV, PRODUCING SURPLUS OF 166 MILLION DOLS--PROOF, ACCORDING GOA TREASURER, OF BENEFITS OF LAST YR'S 17 1/2 PCT DEVALUATION IN BOOSTING EXPORTS/ FLATTENING IMPORTS (UPI, JOC CANBERRA).

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WITH 3-MONTH AUSSIE DROUGHT CONTINUING INTO HARVEST-TIME, WHEAT CROP ESTIMATED AT 9 MILLION METRIC TONS, DOWN 2 MILLION TONS FROM USDA ESTIMATE LAST MONTH (COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE, JOC).

JOC (SYDNEY) SAYS ECONOMISTS AT INST OF APPLIED ECON/ SOCIAL RESEARCH OF MELBOURNE U AGREE THAT CONDITIONS WILL BE NO BETTER IN '78 THAN IN '77/COULD GET WORSE IN 1ST 6 MONTHS OF YR. FORECAST CALLS FOR CONTINUING INDUST STAGNATION, SLUGGISH TRADE, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, HIGH INFLATION, TIGHTER MONEY, HIGH INTEREST RATES, DEVALUATION PRESSURES ON AUSSIE CURRENCY.

8. PHILIPPINES

SUPREME COURT FRI REJECTED PETITIONS SEEKING PREVENT 12/7 REFERENDUM IN WHICH MARCOS SEEKING RE-ENDORSEMENT OF PRESIDENCY; SAID IS ENTIRELY POL MATTER, NOT ONE FOR JUDICIAL DECISION (REUTER MANILA).

SPEAKING THURS TO REPORTERS IN MANILA, MARCOS INDICATED HE WOULD NOT ALLOW AQUINO BE EXECUTED DESPITE DEATH SENTENCE IMPOSED ON HIM BY MIL TRIBUNAL, ACCORDING WP'S MATHEWS (12/8). PRES SAYS HE IS BOTHERED BY BAD IMAGE AQUINO CASE/OTHER ALLEGED HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS HAS GIVEN PHILS, IS PLANNING PUBLIC INFO PROGRAM IN US TO COUNTER-ACT THAT IMAGE. "WE ARE CONCERNED," HE SAID, "THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, MIGHT NOT BE GETTING THE PROPER INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE PHILIPPINES ON HUMAN RIGHTS." INSISTED THAT HE SUPPORTS PRES CARTER'S HUMAN RTS POLICY/DOES NOT CONDONE WHATEVER INSTANCES TORTURE/ILLEGAL ARREST MIGHT HAVE OCCURED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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9. INDONESIA

REPORTING FROM HK (12/8),CSM'S MORITZ SAYS INDO HAS REJECTED RECENT UNGA RESOLUTION DECLARING ANNEXATION E TIMOR, DECLARING ANNEXATION HAD DEPRIVED PEOPLE OF RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION/INDEPENDENCE. FON OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID GOI WOULD BAR ANY UN VISIT E TIMOR. MORITZ SAYS GOI PREPARING NEW ARMY OFFENSIVE AGAINST REMNANTS FRETILIN, SET TO BEGIN 12/31 WHEN AMNESTY OFFERED BY SUHARTO EXPIRES.

10. JAPAN

ON ADMIN'S REFERENCE PRICE STEEL PLAN, NYT SAYS DEPENDING UPON ACTUAL FIGURES, SYSTEM "MAY BE STILLBORN"/ MAY FAIL PACIFY US INDUSTRY; BUT IF SCHEME OFFERS WAY OUT OF POL/ECON BIND, "IT SEEMS WORTH A TRY."

OFUSA (NYT TOKYO) DOES ITEM ON JAPANESE PRACTICE OF SELLING BELOW COST IN ORDER AVOID BANKRUPTCY. NOTES WHILE THIS BRINGS CRITICISM FROM ABROAD, JAPANESE FIRMS GOVERNED BY UNWRITTEN CUSTOM OF LIFETIME EMPLOYMENT, PREFERRING MAINTAIN FULL EMPLOYMENT EVEN THO BUSINESS OPERATING AT LOSS. ALSO NOTES EARLY RETIREMENT PROBLEM, WHICH FORCING MANAGEMENT INTO EVER-LONGER PERIODS IN WHICH TO PAY BENEFITS.

IN 3-ARTICLE SERIES ON TRADE (12/6-8), WSTAR'S HOLUSHA EMPHASIZES SHEER VOLUME FON IMPORTS TO US, NOTING HOW IMPOSSIBLE FOR US CONSUMER BUY AMERICAN-MADE 35MM CAMERA/ TAPE RECORDER/MOTORCYCLE. SECOND ARTICLE FOCUSES SPECIFICALLY ON JAPAN, W/REVIEW OF CRITICISMS LEVELED AT HER FOR TRADE SURPLUS/MOUNTING PRESSURE IN US FOR
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DRASTIC, ONE-SIDED MEASURES IN ORDER DECREASE INFLOW OF JAPANESE GOODS. CITES CHIEF ENEMY JAPANESE IMPORTS AS AFL-CIO, ECONOMIST OF WHICH INSISTS US INDUSTRIES IN BAD POSITION BECAUSE AMERICAN INDUSTRY EXPORTS MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, THEREBY FEEDING OWN DESTRUCTION.

FINAL ITEM FOCUSES ON HOW MANY US JOBS RELATED TO IMPORTS--1 IN 10 ACCORDING TRADE OFFICE. CITES DEP SPECIAL TRADE REP WOLFF, WHO FEELS THAT UNLESS PROGRESS MADE TOWARD WORLDWIDE SET TRADING RULES, TREND TOWARD INCREASED PROTECTIONISM WILL INCREASE, PARTICULARLY THRU USE OF INGENIOUS RULES/REQUIREMENTS.

11. KOREA

SUN'S SEIDEN (SEOUL) SAYS RECENT INCIDENT--IN WHICH KOREAN STUDENT ON AIRPLANE BOUND FOR US, WHEN ASKED COMMENT ON RULE OF PARK CHUNG HEE , WROTE RATHER THAN SPOKE HIS REPLY--TYPICAL OF PERVASIVE FEAR THAT ACCOMPANIES POL DISCUSSIONS IN KOREA, "WHERE IT IS VIRTUALLY ILLEGAL TO CRITICIZE THE GOVT." DECLARES FOREIGNER IN SEOUL WHO AVOIDS POLITICS MIGHT FIND KOREA CONSIDERABLY LESS OPPRESSIVE THAN NEWS REPORTS WOULD LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE; BUT TO ONE WHO RAISES POL QUESTIONS, HEAVY HAND SOON APPARENT. CITES MOST KOREANS' RELUCTANCE EVEN MENTION PRES PARK BY NAME. SAYS, HOWEVER, RECENT GOVT DECISION TO ALLOW NEWS REPORTS OF US SCANDAL PROBE SEEN BY SOME AS MOVE TOWARD LIBERALIZATION.

12. CHINA

BOYCE (SCRIPPS-HOWARD, MEMPHIS PRESS SCIMITAR 11/30) SAYS CARTER ADMIN NOW PUTS QUESTION FULL DIPLO RELS W/PRC ON BACK BURNER, AFTER JUNE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US MOVING TOWARD FULL TIES. TO EXPLAIN SHIFT, QUOTES SENIOR DIPLOMATS: NEED FOR CLOSER US-CHINA TIES REDUCED AS RESULT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DIMINISHED CHANCE OF IMPROVED SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS (PRC HOPE TO IMPROVE ECONOMY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED W/AID FROM WEST); CONGRESS OPPOSES RAPID MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION; PEKING ITSELF LESS ANXIOUS FOR EXPANDED RELATIONSHIP (TURNED DOWN US OFFER TO RAISE LEVEL USLO TO EMBASSY, REPLACE EMBASSY TAIPEI W/LO). BOYCE SAYS US OFFICIALS BELIEVE HUANG CHEN TO BE REPLACED BY LOWER LEVEL OFFICIAL, IN EFFECT DOWNGRADING PRCLO STATUS. QUOTES US OFFICIALS AS DESCRIBING COOLING AS BLESSING IN DISGUISE--WERE FULLER TIES IN EFFECT, DIPLOMATS SAY CARTER ADMIN WOULD HAVE SPEAK OUT ON PRC HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

IN PEKING, MUNRO (CSM 12/8),REPORTING ON RATIONING SYSTEM IN CHINA, SAYS ALMOST EVERYTHING IN SHORT SUPPLY. WHILE SUPPLY LIMITED, DEMAND STRONG AND GETTING STRONGER, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT WAGE INCREASES. RATIONING SYSTEM SO CENTRAL TO DISTRIBUTION OF CHINESE GOODS, COUPONS HAVE BECOME SECOND CURRENCY. EXTENSIVE BLACK MKT IN WHICH THEY ARE TRADED EXISTS. THIRD FORM OF CURRENCY SOMETIMES REQUIRED TO MAKE PURCHASES, LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION FROM WORK UNIT CERTIFYING NEED GREATER THAN THAT OF COLLEAGUES.

13. AUSTRALIA

WSJ SAYS ELECTION, MARKED BY APATHY AMID ECONOMIC WOES, NOW FOCUSING ON CLASS CONFLICT W/WHITLAM SCORING GAINS.

IN LONGER WSJ PIECE, NEWMAN (MORWELL) SAYS ELECTION CAMPAIGN SOUNDS LIKE "CALL TO ARMS FOR CLASS WAR." ON SURFACE, HE SAYS, AUSTRALIA MOST EGALITARIAN OF NATIONS: LITTLE REAL POVERTY; AUSSIES TEND TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES MIDDLE CLASS. BUT FRASER, HE SAYS, HAS LASHED OUT AT UNCLASSIFIED

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LABOR AS PARTY OF "INDUSTRIAL LAWLESSNESS" WHILE WHITLAM CHARGES PM W/TRYING TO "RULE BY DIVISION, BY CONFRONTA-

TATION, THE SETTING OF CLASS AGAINST CLASS." SAYS LABOR PARTY HAS HAD TROUBLE WINNING ELECTIONS, PARTLY BECAUSE OF POLICIES FORGED BY LEFT-WING UNION LEADERS/LIBERAL INTELLECTUALS, E.G. IN ITS STANCE AGAINST URANIUM MINING PARTY SEEMS WILLING SACRIFICE JOB CREATION IN TIME OF RISING UNEMPLOYMENT. CONCLUDES PM HAS GAINED SMALL LEAD BUT OUTCOME STILL UNPREDICTABLE.

JOC'S STOVE (SYDNEY) PREDICTS AUSSIE ELECTION MAY BE SO CLOSE SATURDAY THAT ANOTHER WOULD HAVE BE HELD NEXT YR TO RESOLVE UNWORKABLE SITUATION. SAYS IT'S POSSIBLE FRASER GOVT WILL LOSE CONTROL OF SENATE, GIVING LABOR POTENTIAL DEFEAT GOVT.

NYT'S KAMM (MELBOURNE) REPORTS WHITLAM'S LAST RALLY--IN GREEK NEIGHBORHOOD-GREETED W/ROARING ENTHUSIASM CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM REST OF BOTH PARTIES' CAMPAIGNS. SAYS CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN FACED W/"YAWNING APATHY" BECAUSE THIS IS AUSTRALIA'S 4TH NATL ELECTION IN 5 YRS/VOTERS TIRED OF VOTING. SAYS UNINSPIRED CHARACTER OF ELECTION ANOTHER REASON FOR LACK OF VOTER INTEREST--ONLY ITEM SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED IS ECONOMIC ISSUE. CHRISTOPHER

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